



Committee for Family Forestlands

Meeting Minutes

May 22nd, 2014



Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a committee meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was held jointly with the State Stewardship Coordinating Committee on May 22, 2014 at the Comfort Inn & Suites, 630 Hawthorne Ave, Salem, OR.

CFF Committee members present:

Craig Shinn, Chair
Susan Watkins, Vice-Chair
Rick Barnes, Voting
Sarah Deumling, Voting
Sara Leiman, Voting
Mike Cloughesy, Ex-Officio
Peter Daugherty, Ex-Officio/ODF
Joe Holmberg, Ex-Officio
Rex Storm, Ex-Officio

Members not in attendance:

Roje Gootee, Voting
Cindy Glick, Ex-Officio
Brad Withrow-Robinson, Ex-Officio
Lena Tucker, Secretary
Scott Gray, Voting

ODF Staff present:

Susan Dominique
Nick Hennemann

Guests:

Ed Armstrong, EQC
Jim James, OSWA

Agenda Items:

Call to Order/Review of the Agenda

The morning was spent in joint session with the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee. The two groups heard presentations from Mike Kroon, ODF, regarding Large Fire response, and from Kevin Burch, Jennifer Allen, and representatives of various market segments (Neil Schroeder, Oregon Woodland Cooperative; Marcus Kauffman, ODF, biomass; Linc Cannon, OFIC, bio-fuels; Sara O'Brien, Willamette Partnership, eco-system services; and John Tokarczyk, green building certification) on landowner viability. The goal of the landowner viability Steering Committee is to recommend to the Board of Forestry potential non-timber revenue sources that the Board might encourage. The Committee expects to report its recommendations to the Board in June 2015. CFF members will be asked to contribute their ideas and responses via a template to be circulated before the June 24, 2014 CFF meeting.

Daugherty raised a new topic to begin the afternoon regular CFF meeting. OWEB is interested in developing Focused Investment Partnerships involving millions of dollars per project. The Governor's Natural Resource Office has asked resource agencies to develop a list of potential Focused Investment Strategies. Board of Forestry member Cindy Williams, who represents the BOF on the OWEB Board, and ODF Private Forests have discussed a possible investment initiative focused on family forestlands in the Coho habitat areas. The project outcome would be improved Coho habitat through restoration of riparian areas focused in a specific watershed or basin. OWEB dollars delivered to family forestland could leverage additional EQIP dollars to family forestlands. Technical assistance could be provided by private forestry consultants, by an ODF Stewardship Forester who is acting as a Riparian Specialist, or OSU Extension.

4.7 million acres of family forestlands, which are mostly located in lower elevations, could potentially benefit. The Coho areas are intermixed with agricultural producers who are also forestland owners in the upper reaches. Currently, there is money for Ag producers under CREP, but no similar source of funding for family forestland owners. The OWEB project could leverage NRCS and EQIP dollars. Private Forests would also work with Basin Team Leaders to identify this as a conservation effort. Private Forests will continue to pursue this idea if the BOF and the CFF agree...

The CFF agreed to support the idea and to make a formal statement or to produce a letter for the BOF or Governor, once the idea is mature enough to take up.

James indicated that OSWA would also be interested in supporting the project.

1. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of April minutes was put off until the June meeting.

2. Public Comment

No comment was offered.

3. BOF and EQC and the Challenges of Water Quality – Ed Armstrong, EQC member and ODF liaison to the BOF.

Armstrong, who is Vice-Chair of the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), spoke at length about his personal philosophy and the shared role the EQC and BOF (and Department of Environmental Quality [DEQ] and ODF) play in protecting Oregon's forested environment. Armstrong is also the EQC liaison to the BOF. He has a background in forestry and has been a small forestland owner. Throughout his career he's worked in education, including work with Stimson and Hampton to create a workforce development program in Tillamook for forest industry apprenticeships.

He noted the tensions between the environmental community, which calls on DEQ and the EQC to do more to protect the environment, and those the EQC regulates who say that the agency is doing too much. He compared the West and East coasts in their response to forestlands with the East appearing to understand environmental concerns more than the West. He is concerned about Oregon's future if we lose our environmental stewardship, and he thanked CFF for its work and Rex Storm and Jim James for providing public input to the EQC on how its actions affect other constituents.

The EQC is a 5-member Board appointed by the Governor with Legislative approval. Members serve for up to 2 terms, 8 years total. The EQC implements EPA regulations (for example, Clean Water Act rules). The EQC doesn't create new environmental laws. Attendance at EQC meetings can be sparse, but many stakeholder groups participate. It's important to Armstrong that public voices are heard. He described the behind-the-scenes briefings EQC members receive whenever a new rule or standard is proposed.

Daugherty agreed, pointing out that engaging stakeholders, including the landowner community, a small subset of the conservation community, Ag and the Farm Bureau, and the Tribes, in a process can be challenging. Bringing these groups in via private meetings ensures greater public participation in the public process than might be seen at BOF or Commission meetings.

Armstrong focused on the EQC-BOF liaison position (Gary Springer is the BOF liaison to the EQC) and DEQ's efforts to build more cooperative relationships with the Department of Forestry. The two liaisons attend each other's meetings and report back to their individual membership. The power of that is that they are actually getting to know the Board members and Commission members better. The two have met several times on the Protecting Cold Water Temperature issue, something Armstrong believes has not been done before. With the Directors sharing processes, both agencies are asking tougher questions and coming up with better solutions. The liaison has worked well.

Daugherty pointed out that identical presentations on the Temperature standard were made to the EQC and BOF as a result of the liaison effort. As a result, Armstrong asked to have the whole package of the watershed studies and the related science presented to the EQC at its June meeting. The state faces Federal restraints, but within those restraints can certainly modify and organize state rules as much as possible, though the EPA has final approval. EPA and NOAA representatives will be present at both the EQC June meeting and the BOF's June workshop on water issues.

Armstrong confirmed that the EQC has NO interest in tweaking or changing the Forest Practices Act but instead relies on the BOF to make rules under the FPA to meet EQC standards. The EQC can take economic impacts into account to at least some extent when making rules, but needs evidence from the public on which to base its findings regarding impacts. Often there is too little public input (comment) to guide the EQC.

Shinn expressed the CFF's concern that the larger picture, the importance of forested landscapes for assuring water quality, not get lost amid the various rules. The CFF tries in its communications to the EQC to focus on the higher sight line and long term ambitions.

Armstrong expressed frustration over having to respond to litigation rather than good science with respect to rule-making. He strongly believes that Oregon has the largest asset in the world -- water, which will be far more valuable than the trees. Population pressures are also a concern, especially if immigrants to Oregon do not share an appreciation for forests and their beneficial effect on water. When the population grows six fold, the conversation will be quite different. He suggested convening a Water Congress.

Armstrong noted that DEQ Director Dick Pedersen is trying to change the EQC culture, including how commissioners are vetted, which can be pretty political. Armstrong believes the Governor is now looking for people who don't bring a particular agenda, but who will work towards the bigger view. His personal belief is that humans cause impact and the more humans the more impact. The question is what do we do to mitigate for the least impact and what's the recovery time? Are there practices that we can do to provide a fast recovery on that particular piece? We want family forestlands involved in the answer as they have more personal investment in the health of the forest. Can we get to the place where we have the least impact and the fastest recovery?

The Committee asked for information on both the EQC and BOF June meetings.

[**Action Item:** Dominique to send EQC and BOF agendas to the members.]

4. Comment on the USFS National Forest Plan for the Blue Mountains – Craig Shinn

Storm put together a handout that summarizes the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision that is currently open to public comment. This planning process, which covers the three National Forests in Northeast Oregon, 70% of the forested landscape in that region, a significant portion of the landscape. This is the second iteration of proposed alternatives presented to the public since 2010. After public comment on the 2010 version, the current set of alternatives was developed. Alternatives E is the preferred Alternative.

The handout includes possible talking points to include in a comment letter. In some ways, Storm believes, the proposed Alternative E would make the current situation worse. Alt E fails to address significantly management of the current high level of biomass in these Forests, which are unhealthy and over-crowded. The Forests will continue adding biomass with more growth than harvest, so the problem will get worse. Surrounding private landowners suffer from the fire, insect and diseases crossing over to their lands as well as the loss of industry infrastructure. This means small landowners will have fewer options for managing their lands.

James pointed out that the Baker County OSWA Chapter plans to respond, and everything they would say agrees with Rex's summary.

CFF agreed to put together a letter, with more discussion at the June meeting.

[**Action Item:** Glick, Gootee, and Storm, and Watkins, with James to interface as he can, to take responsibility for drafting a Blue Mountain Forest Plan comment.]

[**Action Item:** Shinn to break down the Eastside White Paper and send to the drafting group.]

Storm: The small landowner has a unique position in this issue that the USFS needs to hear about. Just what the loss of industry infrastructure has done and the effect on those landowners sharing a border with unhealthy forests. All will impact private landowner who are neighbors to the National Forests.

Cloughesy: The growth for the forests is 765 million board ft. The highest of all these alternatives is 243 million board ft. and the either selected alternative is 162 and Rex points out what we need to do to *not* make matters worse in the future would be 375 and so they don't have an alternative even selected is a 162 so they don't even have one that does not make matters worse.

Storm: They don't even address that in the plan. The Plan doesn't address the fact that they are accumulating more biomass over time and what effect that has on the ecosystem.

Shinn: I will take that as a path forward, thank you for doing that. The next thing is the nomination process to replace myself and Sarah Deumling. The Chair position and Environmental members.

5. CFF Nomination – All

Ex-Officio positions. Three are up to be renewed or replaced: the OFRI representative, currently Mike Cloughesy; the OSU College of Forestry, now represented by Brad Withrow-Robinson; and the Forest industry or consulting group position that Rex Storm fulfills. Cloughesy and Storm agreed to continue serving; Withrow-Robinson is away.

Leiman moved to reappoint all three of the ex-officio positions as they stand, subject to Withrow-Robinson's acceptance; Barnes seconded the motion.

By consensus the CFF voted to continue Cloughesy, Storm, and Withrow-Robinson as representatives of their positions, subject to Withrow-Robinson's right to withdraw.

Voting members. Scott Gray has agreed to continue serving as the Forest Industry representative. Watkins **moved** and Shinn seconded a motion that Scott's name be submitted to the BOF for appointment for another term.

By consensus the CFF approved the motion.

Barnes moved that Evan Smith's name be submitted to the BOF for appointment as the Environmental member, replacing Sarah Deumling, who is termed out. Evan Smith, forestry manager for the Conservation Fund, has expressed strong interest in working with CFF and has previously met with the CFF.

By consensus the CFF approved the motion

The Committee discussed candidates for Citizen-at-large, who would chair the CFF. Shinn will discuss with the Committee's top choice and report back.

Action Items: Tucker to prepare Action Item for Board of Forestry approval of Scott and Smith
Shinn to contact candidate for Citizen-at-large position and report back to CFF; Shinn to circulate candidate's bio to CFF members

6. CFF Annual Report – All

[Handout: Draft Report 2014]

Dominique, Watkins, and Shinn will prepare the draft Annual Report based on comments by Committee members for review and approval at the June meeting. Shinn will present the report to the BOF in July.

Members should look closely at the Tiered items from this year and add and subtract and rearrange items for next year. Send these priority lists to Dominique.

Gootee will take the lead on writing up a summary of the Collaborative Project and Leiman for the Tax Project.

[**Action Item:** Committee chairs to draft summary reports for Annual Report and send to Dominique, Shinn, and Watkins.]

7. Good of the Order/Future Agenda – Craig Shinn

Two reports were offered: a brief update on the TELE workshop and a review of the Legislative concept.

Cloughesy presented the TELE report: TELE is **Tools for Effective Landowner Engagement**. TELE was taught by Mary Tyrell and Emma Kravit from Yale. Brett Butler from the National Woodland Owners Survey the Forest Service and Purinma Challwa, The Center for Non-Profit Studies in the Bay Area, helped put the program together. They look at data from the 2013 National Woodland Owners survey and divide woodland owners into four groups based on their interest in financial return or amenities. People interested in financial return *and* amenities are ‘Working Lands’ people. People only interested in the financial are ‘Investment people,’ those interested only in amenities are ‘Woodland Retreat’ owners, and those not interest in either are ‘Uninvolved.’ In Oregon in 2013, 64% were Woodland Retreat; 20% Working Lands; the other two categories each about 10%. Each of these different landowner types respond to different types of communication. To do outreach you have to know who your public is.

Three projects were used as examples including CFF's RxRitter collaborative. The idea is for the communicators to define what their message would be, first in *their* way of thinking and then what to tell the audience, as well as how you would communicate the message. The RxRitter, with just 30 landowners who are mostly Woodland Retreaters. People moving in from out of the area who want to restore and improve the land. The emotion we would want to emulate is called Ecological Philanthropy. Another Ritter group is "Working the Lands," the traditional ranchers. We talked about how to target messages to them. At the conference we had Roje, NRCS, ODF, Tree Farm and OSWA members, people who knew the actual landowners pretty well. Our message is that the Ritter early adopters will talk about and agree to work together because they can get more done for less money. We decided against using the word “*collaborative*” because it didn’t matter the landowners that work would happen at a landscape level. What meant something to landowners was ‘*working together*’. We looked at how we encourage people just at the first step. To get involved in working together.

Daugherty presented the **legislative concept**, which is still in the conceptual stage. The concept relates to response to family forestlands after large fires. Instead of asking for dedicated money, we might use an emergency fund concept, which would be tied to the Governor’s announcement of a State of Emergency as an eligibility trigger. We are looking for the ability to apply for small funds when an emergency fund is activated, to be used for lower cost items needed for immediate rehabilitation after a large fire. The concept could involve setting up a Tort Claim process less onerous to the landowner. This would be intended to enhance the integration of rehabilitation efforts. The Large Fire Toolkit.

Shinn suggested focusing on the notion of immediate response rather than the tort claim process, which may involve too many immediate hurdles. Focus instead on emergency funds and the rules to access those funds. The amount of paperwork or process defines how immediate a response can actually be.

Daugherty: Tie use of the fund to a State Forester’s Declaration.

The June CFF meeting will include a fire update. The one minute message is that ODF anticipates an active fire season due to the drought in Southwest Oregon, Klamath and Klamath/Lake District and South Central to Central Oregon. These areas are likely to have a lot of dry lightning.

Barnes asked for an update on cultural resource protection.

Daugherty stated that ODF has not changed its policy. Landowners are responsible for caring for their cultural resources. Willful violations of any law will be reported to the landowner and SHPO.

Daugherty also noted that FERNS, the new “E-Notification” System, is not going to go live until October. Release One is ready, but ODF must train field office staff and field foresters and do outreach and public training.

[**Action Item:** Dominique to send members an electronic copy of the draft Annual report for review and additions. Priority work plan items are due May 29 with the full report comments due June 16 to Shinn and Watkins. Daugherty needs the final draft by the 24th.]

Watkins: I would entertain a **Motion** to adjourn.

So moved and seconded. Adjourned at 3:30pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 24th at Forestry in the **Tillamook Room**, Building C.

Action Items:

All - On the Viability issue please provide feedback on two questions. Send out email addresses to respond to: Kevin Birch kbirch@odf.state.or.us and Jennifer Allen jhallen@pdx.edu] Members please note: Jim Cathcart will be on the June agenda to collect and synthesize feedback on the two questions presented to you by the Landowner Viability Workgroup. Individuals should feel free to contact Kevin Birch (email provided above) directly to provide comment.

- Question 1. Is there something else that we should research?
- Question 2. Which items would be good candidates for additional Board work?

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